

# July 11, 2013

1. VA-DOD Cooperation Accelerating Claims Handling, Officials Say.
2. DVBC July Webinar: Determining Symptom Credibility in Neuropsychological Testing.
3. Basking Ridge Man Charged With Selling Drugs at VA Medical Centers.
4. Monitoring Social Media Could Help Suicidal Veterans.
5. U Nursing School gets grant to help veterans.
6. \$4.4 million grant awarded to state for NLR Veterans Cemetery expansion.
7. Biden says China cyber-theft must stop.
8. Health centers to help uninsured Americans gain affordable health coverage.
9. Pentagon eyes trimming list of areas rating imminent danger pay.
10. DOD, VA pressed on creating electronic medical records.
11. Second probe of MIA recovery program shows deep problems.
12. Veteran claims backlog news is good, bad.
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14. House veterans committee creates site to prod VA.
15. House panel issues subpoenas for VA training conference documents.
16. Agencies hope big data investments mean big payoffs.
17. Bill Would Force Vet Shelters to Meet Safety Codes.
18. Lawmaker: VA should make sure homeless shelters are fire safe.
19. Veterans brush up on classes before dipping into G.I. Bill.
20. Wounded Iraq vet ordered to remove Marine dress jacket at security screening.
21. Department of Veterans Affairs blocks historic Green-Wood cemetery from giving Civil War vets tombstones.
22. VA hospital workers sold heroin and crack cocaine to vets, feds charge.
23. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as July 11, 2013:
24. Today in History:

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1. [VA-DOD Cooperation Accelerating Claims Handling, Officials Say](#). Senior officials from the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs assured Congress today that they are closing in on solutions that will alleviate the backlog of veterans' health benefit claims and streamline processing of current and future claims. Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology ...
2. [DVBIC July Webinar: Determining Symptom Credibility in Neuropsychological Testing](#). The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) will host its next webinar, "Assessment of Effort and Validity in Neuropsychological Testing: The Importance of Determining Symptom Credibility" from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (EDT) July 17. One of the challenges that health
3. [Basking Ridge Man Charged With Selling Drugs at VA Medical Centers](#). [Patch.com](#)  
The seven men, listed below, were taken into custody Tuesday by special agents of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General and the FBI, U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman said. Five were arrested at the Lyons facility, one at an ...
4. [Monitoring Social Media Could Help Suicidal Veterans](#). [TechNewsDaily](#)  
According to a 2012 report from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, about 14.3 percent of vets commit suicide. The national average for all Americans is well below 1 percent. Chris Poulin, the project's principal investigator, hopes that the ...
5. [U Nursing School gets grant to help veterans](#). [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) A \$5.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced last month made the partnership possible. The money will allow the school and the Minneapolis VA to add 10 faculty members to coordinate the program and work with the students ...
6. [\\$4.4 million grant awarded to state for NLR Veterans Cemetery expansion](#). [THV 11](#) Tom Paquelet, a project manager and architect with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Cemetery Grant Service, will formally recognize the award of \$4,470,187 in grant funding to the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs ...

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7. [Biden says China cyber-theft must stop](#). Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday that China's rise is good for the U.S. and the world but Chinese theft of U.S intellectual property must stop.
  
8. [Health centers to help uninsured Americans gain affordable health coverage](#). Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced \$150 million in grant awards to 1,159 health centers across the nation to enroll uninsured Americans in new health coverage options made available by the Affordable Care Act.
  
9. [Pentagon eyes trimming list of areas rating imminent danger pay](#). Top defense officials will meet as early as Thursday to discuss trimming the list of countries where servicemembers' paychecks are pumped up by imminent danger pay.
  
10. [DOD, VA pressed on creating electronic medical records](#). Lawmakers on Wednesday lamented stagnation in creating lifelong electronic medical records for troops and veterans, decrying a lack of leadership on the issue from the Defense Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the White House.
  
11. [Second probe of MIA recovery program shows deep problems](#). A second investigation has found that Pentagon efforts to account for fallen troops missing overseas are inefficient and in need of overhaul, according to congressional sources.
  
12. [Veteran claims backlog news is good, bad](#). [Tbo.com](#) Though Department of Veterans Affairs Undersecretary Allison Hickey delivered some good news at a meeting with Florida's U.S. representatives Tuesday morning, members of the local delegation are still dissatisfied that the St. Petersburg regional VA ...
  
13. [Veteran claims backlog news is good, bad](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Tampa Tribune:** At the bipartisan meeting, called by Rep. Jeff Miller, chairman of the committee, Hickey announced that the backlog of cases older than 2 years at the St. Petersburg regional office has dropped from about 1,800 in March to 28 cases, Bilirakis said.

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14. [House veterans committee creates site to prod VA.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **USA Today:** The House Veterans Affairs Committee Tuesday set up an online means of continually carping about the Department of Veterans Affairs -- in this case, the way the department has failed to answer several committee request for information.
  
15. [House panel issues subpoenas for VA training conference documents.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Examiner:** Stonewalling by the Department of Veterans Affairs over its lavish spending on a pair of training conferences in Orlando, Fla., triggered a subpoena Tuesday from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
  
16. [Agencies hope big data investments mean big payoffs.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Federal Times:** VA last month awarded Harris Corp. a four-year \$37 million contract to improve the data Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) relies on to generate business intelligence reports for managers and claims processing teams, produce congressional reports, perform financial auditing and detect and prevent fraud, according to Harris.
  
17. [Bill Would Force Vet Shelters to Meet Safety Codes.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Military.com:** A panel of the U.S. House of Representatives will be taking testimony today on a bill mandating that veterans' homeless shelters meet building safety and fire codes.
  
18. [Lawmaker: VA should make sure homeless shelters are fire safe.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** A West Virginia lawmaker is pushing Congress to require homeless shelters accepting money from the Veterans Affairs Department to certify that they meet fire and safety standards.
  
19. [Veterans brush up on classes before dipping into G.I. Bill.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Aiken Standard:** A-VET is the acronym for Acceleration Veteran Education and Transition. Its first seven-week Boot Camp started on June 17, and it's designed for post-9/11 military veterans who want to further their education, but whose test scores show they aren't quite ready for college-level courses.

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20. [Wounded Iraq vet ordered to remove Marine dress jacket at security screening.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **New York Daily News:** A wounded Purple Heart Marine's humiliating experience at a security checkpoint in California has left supporters and an assemblyman outraged.
  
21. [Department of Veterans Affairs blocks historic Green-Wood cemetery from giving Civil War vets tombstones.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **New York Daily News:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has blocked Green-Wood Cemetery from placing gravestones on the empty plots, which are currently marked by yellow flags, ruling that only soldiers' relatives could request a gravestone.
  
22. [VA hospital workers sold heroin and crack cocaine to vets, feds charge.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Star-Ledger:** Federal authorities today arrested several VA Medical Center employees in Lyons and East Orange — as well as others with access to the facilities — who allegedly sold heroin and crack cocaine to veterans being treated at the two hospitals.
  
23. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as July 11, 2013:**
  - **July 17, 2013.** HVAC will hold a legislative hearing on the following bills:
    - H.R. 813
    - H.R. 806
    - Draft Discussion Bill – To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a Future-Years Veterans Program and a quadrennial Veterans review, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Chief Strategy Officer, and for other purposes.  
10:15 A.M.; 334 Cannon
  
  - **July 17, 2013.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will markup pending legislation. 2:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon
  
  - **July 18, 2013.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will markup pending legislation. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon
  
  - **July 19, 2013.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Safety for Survivors: Care and Treatment for Military Sexual Trauma.” 10:00 A.M.; 340 Cannon

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## 24. Today in History:

- [1789](#) – [Jacques Necker](#) is dismissed as France's Finance Minister sparking the [Storming of the Bastille](#).
- [1796](#) – The United States takes possession of [Detroit](#) from [Great Britain](#) under terms of the [Jay Treaty](#).
- [1798](#) – The [United States Marine Corps](#) is re-established; they had been disbanded after the [American Revolutionary War](#).
- [1804](#) – [A duel occurs](#) in which the [Vice President of the United States Aaron Burr](#) mortally wounds former [Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton](#).
- [1864](#) – [American Civil War: Battle of Fort Stevens](#); [Confederate](#) forces attempt to invade Washington, D.C.
- [1882](#) – The British Mediterranean fleet begins the [Bombardment of Alexandria](#) in Egypt as part of the [1882 Anglo-Egyptian War](#).
- [1889](#) – [Tijuana](#), Mexico, is founded.
- 1893 – A [revolution](#) led by the liberal general and politician, [José Santos Zelaya](#), takes over state power in [Nicaragua](#).
- [1895](#) – The [Lumière brothers](#) demonstrate [film](#) technology to scientists.
- [1897](#) – [Salomon August Andrée](#) leaves [Spitsbergen](#) to attempt to reach the [North Pole](#) by [balloon](#). He later crashes and dies.
- [1906](#) – The Gillette-Brown murder inspires [Theodore Dreiser's](#) [An American Tragedy](#).
- [1914](#) – [Babe Ruth](#) makes his debut in [Major League Baseball](#).
- [1914](#) – [USS Nevada \(BB-36\)](#) is launched.
- [1919](#) – The eight-hour working day and free Sunday become law in the Netherlands.
- [1921](#) – A truce is called in the [Irish War of Independence](#); see [Irish calendar](#).
- 1921 – Former U.S. President [William Howard Taft](#) is sworn in as 10th [Chief Justice](#) of the [U.S. Supreme Court](#), becoming the only person to ever be both President and Chief Justice.
- 1921 – The [Red Army](#) captures [Mongolia](#) from the [White Army](#) and establishes the [Mongolian People's Republic](#).
- [1922](#) – The [Hollywood Bowl](#) opens.
- [1936](#) – The [Triborough Bridge](#) in New York City is opened to traffic.
- [1940](#) – [World War II: Vichy France](#) regime is formally established. [Philippe Pétain](#) becomes [Prime Minister of France](#).
- [1943](#) – [Massacres of Poles in Volhynia](#).
- 1943 – World War II: [Allied invasion of Sicily](#) – [German](#) and Italian troops launch a [counter-attack](#) on [Allied forces](#) in [Sicily](#).
- [1947](#) – The [Exodus 1947](#) heads to Palestine from France.
- [1957](#) – Prince Karim Husseini [Aga Khan IV](#) inherits the office of Imam as the 49th Imam of Shia Imami [Ismaili](#) worldwide, after the death of Sir Sultan Mahommed Shah [Aga Khan III](#).
- 1960 – [To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by [Harper Lee](#) is first published.
- [1962](#) – First transatlantic [satellite](#) television transmission.
- 1962 – [Project Apollo](#): At a press conference, [NASA](#) announces [Lunar Orbit Rendezvous](#) as the means to land [astronauts](#) on the Moon, and return them to Earth.
- [1972](#) – The first game of the [World Chess Championship 1972](#) between challenger [Bobby Fischer](#) and defending champion [Boris Spassky](#) starts.

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- [1977](#) – [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) is posthumously awarded the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#).
- [1979](#) – America's first space station, [Skylab](#), is destroyed as it re-enters the Earth's atmosphere over the Indian Ocean.
- [1990](#) – [Oka Crisis: First Nations](#) land dispute in [Quebec](#), Canada begins.
- [1995](#) – The [Srebrenica massacre](#) was carried out.
- [2006](#) – [209 people are killed in a series of bomb](#) attacks in [Mumbai, India](#).
- [2012](#) – Astronomers announce the discovery of [Styx](#), the fifth moon of [Pluto](#).